An ORDINANCE OF THE LORDS and COMMONS Assembled in PARLIAMENT FOR THE MAKINNG OF Salt-Peter

Within the Kingdom of *England* and Dominion of *Wales*, for the Preſervation and ſafety of the Kingdom.

Die Lunæ 26 *Febr.* 1645.

ORdered by the Lords Aſſembled in Parliament, That this Ordinance be forthwith printed and publiſhed.

Joh. Brown Cler. Parliamentorum.

LONDON,

Printed for *Iohn Wright* at the Kings Head in the old Bayley. 1646.



Die Sabbathi, Feb. 7:

1645.

Whereas the great expence of Gunpowder, occasioned by the present Wars within His Majesties Dominions, hath well neere consumed the old store, and doth exhaust the Magazines so fast, that without a larger supply the Navy, Forts, and Land Armies cannot be furnished. And Whereas forreigne Saltpeter is not equall in goodnesse with that of our owne Countrey, and the forreigne Gunpowder far worse conditioned, and lesse forceable then that which is made in England. And Whereas divers forreigne Estates have of late prohibited the exportation of Saltpeter, and Gunpowder out of their owne Domini-

ons and Countries, so that there can be little hope of future expectation of any Peter or Powder to be brought into this Kingdome, as in former times, which will enforce us to make use of our owne materials, It is held most necessary that the digging of Saltpeter, and making of Gunpowder, should by all fitting meanes be encouraged at this time, when it so much concernes the publique safety. Nevertheless to prevent the reviving of those oppressions and verations exercised upon the people, under the colourable authority of Commissions granted to Saltpeter-men, which burthen hath been eased since the sitting of this Parliament: And to the end that there may not be any pretence to interrupt the worke, It is ordained by the Lords and Commons in Parliament, that such persons as shall be nominated and allowed by the Lords and Commons, Members of both houses, which are of the Committee of both Kingdomes, or any five of them, their Factors, Workmen and Servants, shall have power and authority by this present Ordinance to search, and dig for Saltpeter in all Pigeon-houses, Stables, Cellars, Vaults,

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empty Ware-houſes, and other Out-houſes, Yards, and places likely to afford that earth, at fit ſeaſons, from halfe an houre after Sun-riſing in the morning till an houre before Sun-ſetting, and in Pigeon-houſes likely to afford that earth at fit ſeaſons, from nine of the clocke in the morning till three of the clock in the afternoon. The ſaid Saltpeter-men at their owne coſt and charges levelling the ground, repairing any dammage which ſhall be done by them: Wherein if the ſaid Saltpetermen doe faile to give ſatisfaction, to the contentment of the owners, upon complaint made by the parties grieved, unto the Deputy-lieutenants, Juſtices of the peace, Committees of Parliament, or any one or more of them; and they or any of them ſhall have power to compell the ſaid Saltpeter-men to lay the ground in good order as before the breaking up (working onely excepted) And likewiſe to give ſuch reaſonable ſatisfaction for the dammage, as he or they, in his or their diſcretions ſhall thinke fit: Which not being obeyed, the name and offence of ſuch perſon or perſons refuſing, ſhall be returned unto the ſaid Lords and Commons of the ſaid Committee,

mittee, or any five of them. And for as much as the Saltpeter-men for the provision of the State, are to bring in a proportion of Saltpeter weekly, which they can no Waies be able to doe in case they should be denied to dig and Worke for Saltpeter, It is therefore ordered, that in case any person whatsoever shall refuse to suffer Saltpeter-men allowed by the said Lords and Commons of the said Committee, or any five of them, to dig and Worke for Saltpeter, according to the rules and limitations before mentioned; upon complaint thereof made to the Deputy-Lieutenants, Justices of peace, Committees of Parliament, or any one or more of them; then they, or any one of them shall hereby have power to enforce the obedience of the parties so refusing, or to certifie their offence, and names of the offendors, to the said Lords and Commons of the said Committee, or any five of them, to be proceeded against according to their demerits.

And it is likewise ordained, that the said Saltpeter-men, for the carriage of the liquor vessels, and other Utensils from place to place, & delivering of the Saltpeter where the same

same shall be made into Gunpowder, it shall be lawfull for the said Saltpeter-men to demand and take Carts by the knowon Officers, so as the lading shall not exceed twenty hundred Weight, & the journy not exceed ten miles by the cõmon estimation for carriage, Whereof the owner shall be paid after the rate of eight pence per mile, and the empty vessels are to be recarried gratis. And the said Saltpeter-men are likewise to be freed from all Tares & Tolles, demandable for any of their Carriages used about their said works. And in case any person Whatsoever shall refuse to suffer the said Saltpeter-men to dig, or do any other thing in pursuance of this Ordinance, according to the limitations and directions hereby given, then the Saltpeter-men shall returne the names of such persons so refusing to the said Lords and Commons of the said Committee, or any five of them, to be proceeded against according to their demerrits. By which means the Worke of making Powder in this Kingdome (which else will be let fall in the time of danger) may be continued and cherished, and the subjects may have the benefit of Powder at far easier rates then otherwise

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it should be sold for. For which purpose, it is lastly ordained, that the said Lords and Commons of the said Committee shall by vertue of this Ordinance have power and authority to put the Ordinance in execution, and to doe and performe all such thing and things as to them shall seem expedient, for the better effecting of this service. And it is further ordained that such Saltpetermen as shall be allowed as aforesaid shall take such out-houses for their work-houses to set their Vessels and Utensils in, as shall be fit, and may be reasonably spared; & to have, take, and draw Water fit for their said works, they giving satisfaction for it, to the contentment of the owners thereof. Or if they shall not agree of such satisfaction, that then the appeale to the Deputy-lieutenants, Justices of peace, or Committees of Parliament, or any one or more of them, who may make such order therein, as to him or them shall seem fit; which order shall bind both parties. This Ordinance of Parliament to continue for three years, from the six and twentieth day of March one thousand six hundred forty six.

J. Brown, Cler. Parliamentorum.